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REGINA metro®

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

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Okochi makes it five

Municipal politics. Nigerian-born 34-year-old is the fifth candidate vying for Regina's mayoralty

ALEX BOUTILIER
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He was born in Africa, studied in Europe, and spent time in Tokyo.

But Meka Okochi, the latest candidate for Regina's mayoralty, says he's found his home in Saskatchewan.

In front of a crowd of about 50 people Tuesday, Okochi formally announced his candidacy for mayor.

"To those of you who have been on the sidelines of our democracy, who have lost faith in our political process, I hope you find inspiration in our message," Okochi told the crowd.

"I hope you lend your voice to this election. Because what we do on October 24 will determine our collective future."

Okochi, 34, was born in Lagos, Nigeria.

He came to Regina in 2004 to pursue a doctorate in environmental systems engineering, with a focus on sustainable municipal infrastructure.

He's the current vice-president of the Regina Regional Opportunities Commission, and previously worked in business development for SaskEnergy.

When asked about his platform, Okochi was tight-lipped, saying he'll be rolling out his policies in the weeks and months ahead.

"It's a marathon, not a sprint," Okochi told reporters.

He did say, however, that the coming platform will be based on three broad tenents: Long-term vision, engagement and transparency.

"My first priority is to come out and introduce myself to the people of Regina," said Okochi.

Okochi has never held political office, but he said that's not an issue — referencing the wildly popular mayor of Calgary, Naheed Nenshi, as proof.

The other contenders

Meka Okochi joins Coun. Michael Fougere, businessman David Loblaw, accountant Chad Novak, and Jim Elliott in the race for the mayoralty.

Meka Okochi makes his way through the crowd after announcing his candidacy for mayor Tuesday at the Crave Restaurant. ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

Finding place to live is tough

Regina has the lowest vacancy rate in Canada. We offer some rental advice

PAGE 6

Looking for a sugar daddy?

Online dating survey says the best place to find one is in Toronto

PAGE 8

Beauty queen pursues dream

Transgender contestant calls on Donald Trump to change pagent rules

PAGE 8

Too old for school?

Regina's oldest elementary school faces an uncertain future

PAGE 3

Taunting set off gunman

Police say student's murderous rampage triggered by teasing about poor English

PAGE 7

25 ways to love the Stones

Celebrating half a century of the world's greatest rock 'n' roll band

PAGE 13

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The Grace Bag-Sunshine Yellow Prince, The New School Bag-Royal Prince, The Village Satchel-Lollipop Pink Prince, The Mini Satchel-Orange Prince

Uncertain future for city's oldest elementary school

Meeting. Locals have their say on facility

The first in a series of meetings to determine the Ecole Connaught Community School's future was held Wednesday night, to give residents a chance to provide input.

Some have expressed concern that the history of the building may not be respected during the process, as the facility, built in 1912, is the oldest elementary school still in operation in the city.

Regina school board spokesman Terry Lazarou said that buildings must compliment the programs being taught within them.

"Some of the things that will be considered is how teaching in the building can be complemented by the structure itself," he said. "Things like classrooms that suit the needs of the students and handicapped accessibility."

Two architects hired by Regina Public Schools (RPS) and a number of designers are among those listening to concerns from residents.

"Everything is on the table in terms of what the potential future of the building is," said Lazarou. "It could definitely be a redesign of the building. It could be a rebuild of the building. The sky is the limit, keeping in consideration the (amount that) government and the Department of Education is willing to fund in terms of any changes that are proposed."

Demolition of the school is also on the table as a possibility.

Groups such as RealRenewal, a school-advocacy organization, and the School Community Council (SCC) are concerned that the building's history won't be adequately considered.

Amy Pertovitch is a member of the SCC and has two children in the French program at Connaught. "We should fix what we have — not demolish and rebuild," she said. "We just hope that the RPS looks at all angles when it comes to the future of Connaught School."

CARRIE-MAY SIGGINS/FOR METRO

The Ecole Connaught Community School, built in 1912, is the oldest elementary school still in operation in Regina.
CARRIE-MAY SIGGINS/FOR METRO

More details

- There are a total of three open houses to consult with the public about Ecole Connaught. The next two are on April 26th and May 25th.
- After consultation, a preliminary report recommending a course of action will then be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. There are no deadlines by which RPS must submit its proposal.

Crash lands cyclist in hospital

A major road collision took place Tuesday when a vehicle struck a motorcycle at Lewvan Drive and 7th Avenue, police say. The motorcycle was heading south on Lewvan when it was slammed by a Chevrolet Optra, sending the motorcycle's windshield into the grass 20 feet away. Debris from the motorcycle was strewn across the intersection. There was no word on the state of the drivers, but the cyclist was conscious when taken to hospital, police say. CARRIE-MAY SIGGINS/FOR METRO

Gambling

SaskGaming rakes in $51.7M

The provincial gambling corporation brought in more than $50 million in revenue before transfers last year.

SaskGaming's annual report, tabled in the legislature by Minister Ken Cheveldayoff Tuesday, showed the Crown corporation's income stood at $51.7 million for 2011.

Of that total, $25.9 million was transferred to the province's General Revenue Fund (GRF), and $20.7 was earmarked for the provincial Crown Investment Corporation.

Cheveldayoff said the gambling business made a significant contribution to the province's economy.

"The money it provides to the General Revenue Fund, as well as the more than $759,000 it gives to worthy community groups and organizations in 2011, helps shape our province's bright future," Cheveldayoff said in a release.

According to the province, 50 per cent of SaskGaming's profits go to the GRF before being distributed to the Community Initiatives Fund, First Nations Trust and the Clarence Campeau Development Fund. Since 1996, SaskGaming has contributed more than $400 million to the GRF.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

Legislature

Rolling out the green carpet

Red carpet has been in the Saskatchewan legislature since it opened 100 years ago, but that will change this summer when the assembly goes green.

Speaker Dan D'Autremont says the red carpet is worn down to the underlay in many spots. He says it's so bad that on special occasions staff have to use red markers to colour the underlay.

He says green carpet was part of the original plan for the legislature.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1

NEWS

On the web

Trayvon images not approved

While vendors are profiting from Trayvon Martin merchandise, the teen's family has taken action to prevent offensive uses of his image. Watch the video at metronews.ca.

Vaccine itching for approval

A new vaccine for poison sumac and poison oak is going to Phase 1 clinical trials later this year. More at metronews.ca.

Mobile news

'Scout's honour' takes a new meaning as The Dog Scouts of America, a half-human, half-hound organization, goes about the business of doing good deeds. Scan the code for the story.

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Family advocates for the missing

Petition. Asking the federal government for link to national DNA database

NATASHA TERSIGNI
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When Dylan Koshman, 21, went missing from Edmonton on Oct. 11, 2008, his family, who were back in Saskatchewan, had no idea what happened or where he was. It has been four years since anyone in Koshman's family has seen or talked to him, but they have faith he will still be found.

Now his two aunts, Gaylene Volk and Penny Cummings, are taking their fight to Parliament, by petitioning the federal government to link the already existing National DNA Data Bank to one for missing persons and unidentified remains.

"Right now every province is on their own. DNA is taken from the next of kin, a family member, of a missing person on a voluntary basis. That DNA is then stored in that province, but it doesn't go across Canada. So if person's remains are found in another province, and sometimes even another city, the remains will never be identified," said Volk.

Volk and Cummings are gathering signatures to be presented in the House of Commons on May 25th, National Missing Children's Day.

The petition was originally started by Judy Peterson, whose daughter, Lindsey Jill Nicholls, has been missing since Aug. 2, 1993. Peterson has been lobbying to create a national data bank for nearly a decade.

Member of Parliament Ray Boughen for Palliser, Saskatchewan, supports the group. On Feb. 1st Boughen presented certified petitions in the House of Commons.

For the May 25th presentation of the petition Dylan Koshman's mother, Melanie Alix, will travel to Ottawa.

The group is hoping for 10,000 signatures — right now they have 4,000.

"All we are really searching for is peace and closure," said Cummings.

For anyone who wishes to sign the petition they can go to www.lindseyslaw.com.

Gaylene Volk and Penny Cummings gather signatures for their petition on April 2 at the University of Regina.
NATASHA TERSIGNI/FOR METRO

Writer to talk about a sense of place

Since 1990, when the first Joanne Kilbourn mystery novel was published, writer Gail Bowen has used the landscape of Regina to flesh out her novels.

Bowen will speak about the relationship between her writing and the city in her talk, "A Sense of Place: Joanne Kilbourn's Regina" for the annual Dr. Barbara Powell Visiting Lecture, presented by the Humanities Research Institute at the University of Regina.

Powell, who passed away in 2002, was one of the founders of the Women's Studies program at the U of R and of the Humanities Research Institute. It was from her, years ago, that Bowen got the idea for the topic of her lecture.

"Barbara and I were friends and we used to walk to school together," says Bowen. "She did say that one thing she was interested in, in my books, was the geography and how the city of Regina informed the characters and the fact that Regina itself seemed to be a character in the book."

So how does the city inform the characters? The fictional crime solver Joanne Kilbourn is a political science professor and legislative-insider by day, so the provincial capital as re-imagined in Bowen's novels is cast in a political light.

The 13th installment of the Joanne Kilbourn mystery series, Kaleidoscope, will be in stores April 24th. The Barbara Powell lecture takes place tonight at 7 p.m. in the Riffel Auditorium at Campion College. Admission is free. CARRIE-MAY SIGGINS/FOR METRO

Gail Bowen HANDOUT

Funding

Prince Albert jails to get major upgrades

The provincial government is allocating $12.6 million to upgrade two correctional facilities in Prince Albert.

The funding — part of the Saskatchewan Party's recent $47.5 million surplus budget — will go to expansions at the Prince Albert Provincial Correctional Facility and the Pine Grove Correctional Centre.

The Prince Albert institution is embarking on a three-year, $24-million project to build a two-storey expansion with room for 144 beds. Funding in the 2012-2013 fiscal year comes in at $3 million. Pine Grove will receive $9.6 million to build a 30-cell "living unit." The project is expected to take two years, with total funding of $12 million.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

Residence project

Province commits $1M to plan U of R residence

The provincial government is committing $1 million for preliminary planning of a new student residence at the University of Regina.

Advanced Education Minister Rob Norris announced Tuesday the government would support the project, which includes a student housing complex, child care facilities and parking.

"We are pleased to support the planning of the student housing project at the University of Regina," Norris said. He also touted investments in post-secondary student housing over the past four years, noting the funding has added 1,000 new beds for students across the province. ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

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Moving to Regina? Good luck finding a place to live

Housing crisis. City is developing a Comprehensive Housing Strategy, but advocates fear it won't be enough to help those most in need

ELAINE CARLSON
regina@metronews.ca

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation president Don Allen CONTRIBUTED

By all measures, Saskatchewan's economy is booming. But there's a dark side to the boom, as many in Regina have discovered — a housing crisis marked by the lowest vacancy rates in the country, rents that keep rising, long waiting lists for affordable housing and overcrowding.

"Housing is definitely of concern to the city," says Diane Hawryluk, director of Planning and Sustainability for the City of Regina. "As we grow, it will be critical for us to have a sufficient supply of housing to meet our expanding economic, population growth, and labour requirements, and to remain competitive as a city."

Last December, Regina began the process of developing a Comprehensive Housing Strategy to define its role and responsibility with respect to housing, and determine where its resources are best allocated to meet current and future needs. The city has now engaged a consultant and has started the process.

"Community consultation will be a key component," says Hawryluk. "We plan to work with a stakeholder group that will include a broad spectrum of representatives, from those at the poverty end to the high end — the actual people using the programs." The strategy will be presented to city council in early 2013.

A year ago, in the midst of a flurry of lobbying by tenants' associations and anti-poverty groups calling for rent controls, the government of Saskatchewan launched a five-point, $252-million plan to add at least 4,600 new entry-level and rental housing units over five years — a 29 per cent increase in the primary rental market overall.

According to Saskatchewan Housing Corporation president Don Allen, the Rental Construction Incentive has already resulted in 1,300 more rental units in Regina. "This represents a 12 per cent increase in the primary rental market in Regina," he says.

Anti-poverty advocate Peter Gilmer would like to see more.

"Certainly the expectation is that we'll see some expansion of the rental market based on these incentives for developers, but the problem is, we're not seeing a significant commitment to the expansion of social housing or housing geared to income, and rent controls are not on the agenda.

Since 2006 to 2010, rents have risen by an average of 43 per cent, or 10 per cent per year. The 0.6 per cent vacancy rate means there are a very small number of units in the first place, but what's available for low income people is extremely small, Gilmer explained. "So while much of public money is now going to landlords, the same can't be said for funding for people receiving social assistance."

"It's our view that significant expansion of rental housing, increasing shelter allowances and rental supplements to insure people have income to afford their rents — and rent controls that cap the amount by which rents can be increased in a given year — are absolutely essential. Giving incentives for development is part of the solution, but it can't be the whole solution," he said.

Angelica Barth, a director with Queen City Tenants Association, agrees."Our homeless shelters are literally overflowing; they're having to turn people away. And I've seen some of the properties in the Hood in north central Regina. Half to three-quarters of them are substandard — anything from mold to dripping taps. That's where Regina's poor reside, and that area is 80 per cent rental."

Rental advice

- **Find a rental for a fee.** If you're looking for a place to rent via the internet, chances are you've noticed all the web-based businesses now offering to match tenants with landlords, give you access to "thousands of apartments for rent," or "maximize your profits" by managing your rental properties — for a fee, of course.
- **Warning.** Before you pay or sign on the line, just make sure you're dealing with companies registered with the provincial Real Estate Commission and operating in accordance with the Real Estate Act.

Look closely and you will see a for rent sign on this Victoria Street apartment unit. Neighbours say the sign has been there for years and there is likely no apartment available. METRO

Analysis

Vacancy rates the lowest in Canada

It's harder to find rental accommodations in Regina than anywhere else in the country. Fact is, Regina holds the dubious distinction of having the lowest vacancy rate in the country.

The average vacancy rate in private-rental apartments and investor-owned and rented condominiums was 0.6 per cent in 2011.

The average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in new and existing structures in the Regina Census Metropolitan Area was $932 in October 2011, up 6.2 per cent from the previous year.

A single detached house rented for an average of $914 compared to $832 in October 2010, and average rent for semi-detached, row and duplex units was $924 compared to $789 the previous year.

Because of elevated migration levels to Saskatchewan and increasing house purchase costs that widen the gap between ownership and renting, the low vacancy rate will continue through 2012.

The good news is that rental affordability improved in 2011 — the increased cost of renting was countered by a relatively greater increase in the renter households' estimated median income.

Rental rates are also expected to increase at a more moderate rate than previously due to the addition of new rental units and apartments now under construction in Regina. ELAINE CARLSON/METRO

Housing waiting list on the decline: SHC president

Workers at a construction site in Regina. Many new residences are being built, but will it be enough to satisfy demand? CONTRIBUTED

The Regina Housing Authority manages about 3,200 publicly-funded social and affordable housing units for individuals, families and seniors in Regina.

The maximum income limits for households with dependents is $52,000 a year, and $44,500 a year for households without children.

But since 2006, when the economy first began to soar, about 300 people are waiting on the approved-applicant list at any given time.

However, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation president Don Allen says the wait list has declined since September.

"We've built 150 units in Regina in the last couple of years and 200 more will be ready by summer."

Mark Dobrescu, a Saskatchewan filmmaker who diversified into rental housing to build equity and retirement income, is well aware of the desperation of people looking for rental housing in Regina.

"When we finished our first renovation and put the house on the market, we got over 200 calls. We were so shocked, we even tried to find these people places to live. Some even offered to give us a down deposit even before they saw the home."

Availability

"We've built 150 units in Regina in the last couple of years and 200 more will be ready by the summer."

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation president Don Allen

Now, he finds that long before a house is ready to rent, he gets calls from people via the grapevine — friends looking on behalf of friends and hoping to have an "in" on finding good rental accommodation.

But he notes, "As a result of the axing of the film tax credit, about a thousand houses will come on the market any time now." ELAINE CARLSON/METRO

Gunman was taunted before shooting spree: Police

Daniel Sim with his sister Lydia Sim were among the seven killed during Monday's shooting in Oakland. DANIEL SIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A nursing student expelled from a small Christian university and upset about being teased over his poor English skills opened fire at the school, going from room to room in a rampage that left six students and a secretary dead, police said Tuesday.

One L. Goh, 43, forced the secretary into a classroom at Oikos University in Oakland on Monday, told people to line up and, when some didn't cooperate, began his shooting spree, police Chief Howard Jordan said.

"It's very, very sad," Jordan said. "We have seven people who didn't deserve to die and three others wounded because (of) someone who couldn't deal with the pressures of life."

Goh, a South Korea native who became a U.S. citizen, was expelled in January for behavioural problems from the small private school of fewer than 100 students, Jordan said. The chief said Goh had anger management issues with other students.

Jordan said Goh appeared to have been planning the attack for several weeks.

Goh was upset with administrators and several students at the college, which an official said offered classes in Korean and English and was founded to help Korean immigrants adjust to a new country and find careers in nursing and ministry.

"They disrespected him, laughed at him," Jordan said. "They made fun of his lack of English speaking skills. It made him feel isolated compared to the other students."

Jordan said Goh tried to find a female administrator Monday and began shooting when he learned she wasn't there. The victims, who range in age from 21 to 40, were from various countries, including Nigeria, Nepal and the Philippines.

Goh was being held without bail Tuesday after being booked on suspicion of murder, attempted murder, kidnapping and carjacking, according to sheriff's Sgt. J.D. Nelson, who said the suspect likely would make his first court appearance Wednesday.

Police were still looking for the gun used, which Jordan described as a semiautomatic handgun that was purchased legally.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The victims

Authorities have not released identities of the seven people killed in Monday's shooting.

- School secretary Katleen Ping is believed to be among the first victims in the shooting, according to her family. Ping's father said she had been working at Oikos for less than a year and had come to the U.S. from the Philippines in 2007
- The three surviving victims were all released from Highland Hospital Monday night, according to hospital officials.

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Seized. Bear cub taken to zoo while fate decided

Conservation officials have seized a black bear cub rescued and taken home last month by a man in southern Manitoba.

Makoon, who has become a bit of a celebrity in southern Manitoba, is now biding his time at the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg while government officials try to find him a new home in Ontario.

"I feel like crying," Rene Dubois said Tuesday afternoon, after a conservation officer and a biologist came to his house in St. Malo and loaded the cub up in a cage.

The 63-year-old said he was told he can't visit the bear at the zoo but was given a phone number to call so he could check on his condition.

Dubois said it was a heart-wrenching good-bye that he wasn't prepared for, but he's glad the cub is going to a place where he'll be well taken care of.

"At least he'll have a chance," Dubois said.

The retired construction worker found the bear March 25 starving in a ditch along the highway outside of St. Malo, a community about 70 kilometres south of Winnipeg.

He and his wife have been nursing him back to health, feeding him honey, fruit, and milk and formula from a baby bottle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bear cub Makoon takes a closer look at baby RayAnne at the Dubois home in St. Malo, Man. on March 26. RACHEL WALFORD/HANDOUT

Transgendered model calls on Trump to fight discrimination

Unclear. Miss Universe Canada contestant who was once a man says details surrounding her re-entry into competition muddled

KATE WEBB
Metro in Vancouver

Embattled transgendered beauty Jenna Talackova says the decision to allow her to compete in the Miss Universe Canada pageant is only skin-deep.

In a statement issued late Monday, the organization seemingly reversed its earlier decision to disqualify the 23-year-old Vancouver model from the competition, "provided she meets the legal gender recognition requirements of Canada, and the standards established by other international competitions."

Talackova was disqualified March 23 on the grounds that she did not meet the pageant's requirement that contestants be "natural born" female — a rule her lawyer Gloria Allred called "blatant discrimination" at a Los Angeles news conference Tuesday. Talackova called on Miss Universe owner and real estate mogul Donald Trump to be a leader in the fight against discrimination.

"I also want Mr. Trump to clearly state that this rule will be eliminated, because I do not want any other woman to suffer the discrimination that I have to endure," said Talackova.

Talackova said she is still not sure where she stands with the pageant. "I wish Mr. Trump would just say in plain words whether or not I will be allowed to compete, and if I win whether I will be allowed to represent Canada in the Miss Universe competition," she said.

The 6-1 blond has said she knew she was a female at the age of four. She began hormone therapy at 14 and surgically changed her gender a few years ago when she was 19.

Jenna Talackova, right, who was recently forced out of the Miss Universe Canada competition, appears with her attorney Gloria Allred at a news conference in Los Angeles, Tuesday. REED SAXON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free my grapes

Wine lovers hope to quash 1928 law

"Free my grapes" was the rallying cry on Parliament Hill on Tuesday as a committee heard from supporters of a private member's bill seeking to erase a 1928 rule that restricts individuals from bringing wine across provincial borders.

Shirley-Ann George ran into that problem when she was visiting B.C. and then tried to join a wine club through a vineyard there, only to be told the vineyard couldn't ship to her home in Ontario. She decided to start up the Alliance of Canadian Wine Consumers to try to change it.

"You've got to be kidding," is the most common refrain from people first learning about the rule, George said in an interview.

Bill C-311, which would amend the Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act, was introduced in the House of Commons last fall by B.C. Tory MP Dan Albas.

While Albas doesn't drink, he said the issue came up frequently during the 2011 election campaign.

The law as written is akin to saying to car makers in Ontario that they can make their cars there but they can't ship them to B.C., said Albas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Think your average sugar daddy is more like a grandpa? Think again, says dating website CEO Brandon Wade. ISTOCK |

Toronto crowned 'sugar daddy' capital of Canada

Five-year study. Regina places 13th in number of 'sugar daddies' per capita, just behind Saskatoon

DELIA MACPHERSON
Metro in Toronto

Looking for someone to take you out on the town? Fly you around the world and pamper you every chance they get? You're best chance of finding that is in Toronto.

A recent five-year study shows that Toronto has the highest number of "sugar daddies" per capita than any other city in Canada. Calgary came in second, according to the study, while Vancouver placed third.

Seekingarrangement.com, an online dating site that pairs wealthy men and women with those interested in dating them, conducted the study with data from the Canadian census.

So what is a "sugar daddy?" The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as "a rich older man who lavishes gifts on a young woman in return for her company or sexual favours."

Brandon Wade, founder and CEO of the website behind the study, says the negative stereotypes surrounding sugar daddies aren't true.

"If you look at the stats, sugar daddies are in their late 30s, early 40s," says Wade. "Despite the stereotype, the 'real' sugar daddy is much younger, very generous and wealthy."

Wade claims women want to be spoiled and pampered. Using a site like his is a way for women to weed out the unemployed, lazy men from the wealthy men out there.

And wealthy they are. Wade says the average sugar daddy is worth between four and five million dollars, and has an annual income of about $200,000. Women are lining up for a sugar daddy, with 10 women for every one daddy.

"People might ask, 'Doesn't he just want sex?' All men at the end of the day want sex," says Wade.

Regina's numbers

Study shows Regina placed 13th:

- In Regina, 1.1 in every 2000 men is a sugar daddy.
- Locally, 58.1% are married, a little higher than the national average.
- Their average income is $148,293.
- Their net worth is about $1.9 million.
- A Regina, a sugar daddy spends $2,029 a month on his sugar baby.

How many are married?

38.9

The percentage of Canadian sugar daddies who are married. Brandon Wade says that married sugar daddies are often in a sexless marriage and the financial ramifications of a divorce make for a sticky situation. Most wives have no idea their husband is a sugar daddy.

There are better ways to make your voice heard
What's the point of making a statement, giving a speech or even talking if no one is listening?
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Panel

Thousands of kilometres from the ocean, a museum tells the story of a woman made famous by the Titanic. No, her name was not Rose. A movie about her life, The Unsinkable Molly Brown, starring Debbie Reynolds as a plucky lifeboat survivor, was a hit decades before Kate Winslet's doomed romance in Titanic.

ALL PHOTOS FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 April 15, 2012: The centennial

This undated file photo provided by Titanic Museum Attractions shows the exterior of a half-scale replica of the Titanic cruise ship in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

The attraction in Pigeon Forge and another in Branson, Mo., are marking the April 15, 2012 centennial of the Titanic sinking by sponsoring a Coast Guard cutter to take 1.5 million rose petals to the North Atlantic site where the ship went down. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Are you ready to venture aboard the Titanic?

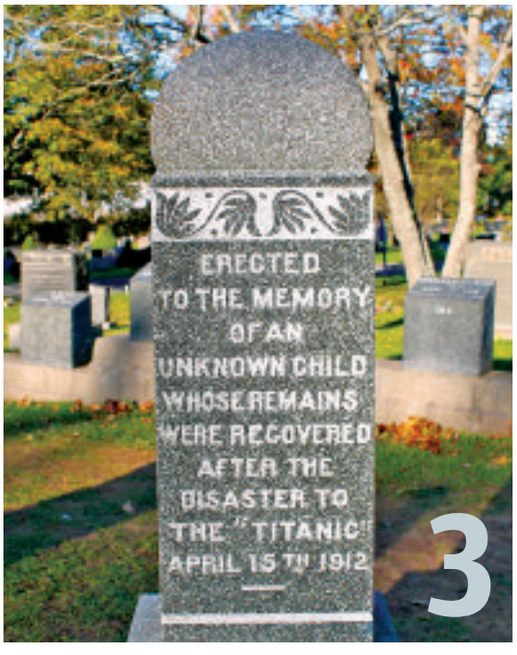
A hundred years ago, the sinking of the Titanic was a tragic disaster. Today, it's fodder for an entertaining outing with the kids.

There are replica ships in Tennessee and Missouri, graveyard tours in New York and Nova Scotia, travelling exhibits from Las Vegas to Atlanta, and two brand new museums in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Southampton, England. Hotels and restaurants are serving Titanic dinners, and ships are even heading to the disaster site — including an anniversary cruise that slashed prices last-minute from nearly $5,000 to $1,000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Margaret, no one called her Molly

Janet Kalstrom, a retired banking project manager who's been the museum's Molly Brown impersonator for six years, is pictured in the living room at the Molly Brown House Museum.

A few blocks from Colorado's state Capitol, more than 1,700 miles from the Atlantic Ocean and a mile above sea level, is a museum dedicated to a woman eclipsed by legend following the sinking of the Titanic. The "unsinkable Molly Brown" moved into this stone Victorian home after she and her husband struck it rich at a gold mine in Colorado's mountains, nearly 20 years before she boarded the Titanic because it was the first boat she could board to get back home to visit her ailing grandson. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



3 Halifax played central role

This undated file photo provided by Destination Halifax shows the Unknown Child gravestone at the Fairview Lawn Cemetery, in Halifax, where 121 Titanic victims are buried. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 A travelling woman she was

This photograph on display at the Molly Brown Museum shows Mrs. J.J. Molly Brown presenting a trophy cup award to Capt. Arthur Henry Rostron for his service in the rescue of the passengers on Titanic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bankers call for moratorium on proposed reforms

Finance. Policymakers should not overburden banks with regulations that could stifle growth: CBA president

Canada's bankers want to apply the brakes on sweeping new regulations being forced on them as a result of the 2008 financial collapse, possibly putting them on a collision course with the government and the Bank of Canada.

Canadian Bankers Association president Terry Campbell surprised a luncheon of policy-makers and industry executives Tuesday with a call for Ottawa to call a push the pause button on future reforms.

"We are facing the biggest regulatory implementation exercise the Canadian banking industry has ever undergone, and it is not done yet," he said.

"I think it would be useful for the federal government to hit the 'pause' button."

Commons finance committee chair James Rajotte, a Conservative MP from Alberta, seemed surprised by the appeal, but said afterwards if bankers have concerns, "we will certainly listen."

The proposal puts the private sector banks potentially in conflict with Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney, who as head of the Swiss-based Financial Stability Board has been a leading proponent of the reform process and has had little patience with what he has called "back-sliding."

In recent interviews, Carney has said policy-makers are open to working with stakeholders about the end game of reforms, but appeared to dismiss notions of halting the process.

He insisted Canada's banking community is not opposed to stiffer regulations, including more capital requirements, that have already been approved.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Managing the market

- CBA president Terry Campbell said the danger is that regulators may prevent banks from offering new, legitimate services.
- He also said regulations are so complex and require so many resources for compliance that they could drive smaller financial institutions out of the market, resulting in less competition.

Market Minute

DOLLAR
100.97¢
(-0.01¢)

TSX
12,323.61 (-183.44)

OIL
$104.01 US (-$1.22)

GOLD
$1,672 US (-$7.70)

Natural gas: $2.187 US (+3.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,199.55 (-64.94)

No longer heir apparent

James Murdoch gestures as he leaves his father Rupert Murdoch's residence in central London last July. Murdoch, 39, stepped down Tuesday as chairman of British Sky Broadcasting, surrendering one of the biggest jobs in the Murdoch media empire. Murdoch's credibility has come under question due to the phone-hacking scandal at the now-defunct News of the World tabloid. SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Brewery bought

Molson Coors acquires StarBev

Molson Coors Brewing Company is looking to offset declining North American beer demand by acquiring leading Central and Eastern European beer maker StarBev for $3.5 billion US.

The deal will add nine breweries and 4,100 employees in several countries to Molson Coors.

StarBev will give Molson Coors access to the increasingly healthy Eastern European beer market, said Molson Coors CEO Peter Swinburn.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stock plummets

RIM shares down on lawsuit news

Shares in Research in Motion were down almost 10 per cent Tuesday amid news that BlackBerry maker is being sued by a Dutch chipmaker for alleged patent infringement involving some of its smartphones.

RIM's stock closed at $12.88, down $1.37, or 9.6 per cent, on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Dutch semi-conductor company NXP confirmed that it's suing RIM for allegedly infringing on six patents by selling certain smartphone models.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THOSE DARN SPACE ROCKS PULLING PRANKS, AGAIN

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

The end is near.

Now that I've got your attention, it's more like a near-miss.

On April 1, an asteroid the size of a 747 missed slamming into Earth at roughly 48,000 km/h when it zipped between the Earth and the moon, the cosmic equivalent of a hair's breadth.

Even though it happened on April Fool's Day, I'm not foolin'.

And as I write, there's another one coming.

If you're reading this, we've dodged a bullet called 2012 FA57, which was scheduled to fly past the neighbourhood just beyond the orbit of the moon … today.

It turns out these giant space rocks are whizzing around our heads all the time. The April Fool asteroid followed in the wake of one the size of a school bus and another the size of a car last week. They may be relatively small, but their size makes them no less scary.

Superstitious?

And if it misses on Friday the 13th, 2029, it gets another chance exactly seven years later, on Friday the 13th, 2036!

According to Marshall Brain of HowStuffWorks, if an asteroid the size of a house crashed into the planet, it would have the energy of a bomb equivalent to the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima. A 747-sized rock is bigger than a house and would have the impact of a much, much larger H-bomb.

Grim news. And you have to believe stuff that comes from a guy named Marshall Brain.

These so-called little shots are tricky, precisely because they are small enough to elude detection until it's too late to do anything about them. But they are nothing compared to the threat of Apophis, which is scheduled to narrowly miss Earth on — get this — Friday the 13th, 2029. Apophis is named after the Egyptian god of darkness and chaos — one bad dude. A direct hit would unleash the energy of 65,000 nukes, according to NASA.

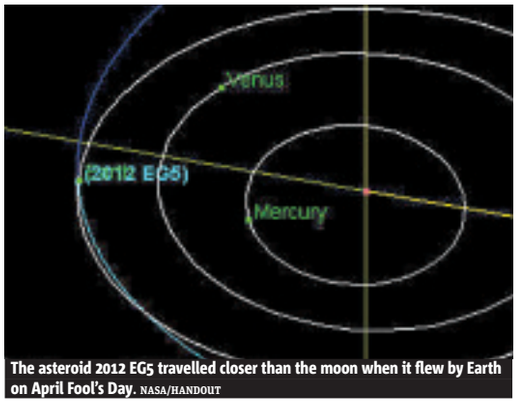
And if it misses on Friday the 13th, 2029, it gets another chance exactly seven years later, on a Friday the 13th, 2036!

So the end could indeed be near. Admittedly, it's a long shot, but at one in 48,000, it's still greater than your chance of getting killed in a plane crash, which is one in 355,000.

Fortunately, there's a stalwart band of scientists at NASA's Near-Earth Object Program who do nothing but watch the skies. They can see Apophis coming a long way off because it's 320 metres across. But they didn't discover the one that just missed until March 13, which is too late, baby. It will take two years to mount an effort to discourage an asteroid from burying its head into the bosom of Mother Earth.

So, that guy in the cartoon with the "Repent! The End is Near!" sign and the haunted look? He's not so far off the beam.

Good thing you've led a blameless life to date, so there's nothing to worry about.



The asteroid 2012 EG5 travelled closer than the moon when it flew by Earth on April Fool's Day. NASA/HANDOUT

Mom, not in front of everyone!

BARBARA SCHEER/WUPPERTAL ZOO

Say hi

Polar bear cub makes world debut

WUPPERTAL, GERMANY. She may be less than three months old but in Germany this polar bear cub is already a big celebrity. This is Anori — pictured with her mother Vilma — who has just made her first public appearance. The little bear seemed completely at ease in her outdoor pen, despite onlookers and flashing cameras. **METRO**

Time to shine

In her, they see brother Knut

CELEBRITY. What makes this polar bear so famous? Anori shares a father with Knut, a cub that won the world's affection after his mother rejected him as a baby and he was raised by zookeepers. Such was Knut's acclaim that he even starred in his own film, Knut & Friends, which went on to win rave reviews worldwide. **METRO**

Anori the polar bear

Disappearing act

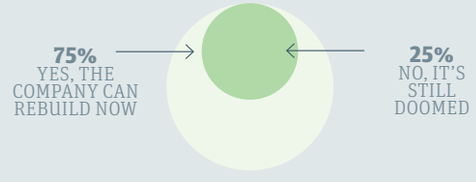
25,000

polar bears are left in the world, according to conservation group Polar Bears International.
The disappearance of sea ice has forced polar bears away from their usual feeding grounds. The Arctic summer sea ice will vanish by 2030, experts claim.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Does former RIM chief Jim Balsillie's retiring make you more optimistic about the BlackBerry maker?



Twitter

@momteenytiny: @LiveKelly I figured it out, you have to be from #Regina to know what the Canadian Term #Bunny-Hug means.Only in Saskatchewan #ProudCanadian

@TheOhWells: #Regina! Guess what?! We will be at O'hanlons tonight! I'm not even kidding right now.

@tobykuhnke: "Potentially lovely, perpetually human, haphazardly open." #Open #Regina

@samanthaxco9: "420 is hipster day?! Wait let me write this down" #Regina

@lgolosky: Went for a run on this beautiful day :) so great to see so many people out and about around the lake! #yqr

metro
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The Rolling Stones with Mick Jagger, left, Ronnie Wood, Charlie Watts and Keith Richards on April 2, 2008 in London, England GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES

Why we love the Stones

The beat goes on.
This month marks the golden jubilee of the world's greatest rock 'n' roll band

PAT HEALY
scene@metronews.ca

As many wonder how Keith Richards has even lived this long, we give you 25 reasons to love the Stones, the band that's existed for half a century.

1. *Jagger/Richards:* It really all comes down to this: It's an artistic tug-of-war between words (Mick) and music (Keef), sex (Mick) and drugs (Keef), and every negative/positive charge that this songwriting partnership represents.

2. *Brian Jones:* By all accounts Jones founded and named the band, though the role of the second guitarist and multi-instrumentalist diminished progressively as he got more into drugs and less into fame. Mick and Keith fired him in June of 1969 and a month later he was found dead at the bottom of his swimming pool, only adding to the dark, mysterious aura of the Stones.

3. *Charlie Watts:* The drummer with the stoic face has not only been keeping the beat for the band for 50 years, but he has reportedly been keeping the faith with his wife of 47 years. Only after seeing the multiple dirty documentaries of the Stones' 1970s tours, does one realize how amazing this accomplishment is.

4. *Mick Taylor:* The guitarist joined the band at age 20 in 1969 and was only a Rolling Stone for five years and six albums, a period which was arguably the band's best.

5. *Ronnie Wood:* After serving as Rod Stewart's foil in The Faces, he replaced Taylor in 1975. He is the longest-reigning second guitarist, and the guitarist who looks the second-best with a guitar hanging on his bottom lip.

6. *Bill Wyman:* No, he was never smiling when the camera zoomed in on him in the videos, but there's something so weirdly likable about Wyman as the bassist.

7. *Darryl Jones:* Jones came on the scene almost 20 years ago (!) Yes, it's been that long since Bill Wyman left the band.

8. *Anybody else who has ever played with the band:* The Stones knew how to bring in guests, from the London Bach Choir on You Can't Always Get What You Want to Merry Clayton's killer singing on Gimme Shelter to sax man Bobby Keys on Exile on Main Street to the frequent keyboard guest spots by Billy Preston, Nicky Hopkins and Ian Stewart.

9. *The name:* No, it didn't come from Dylan's Like a Rolling Stone, although the guys did record that song in the '90s. It came from Muddy Waters' 1950 song, Rollin' Stone.

10. *The logo:* Whether or not it's based on Mick's mouth doesn't matter. It's red and juicy and it has absolutely nothing to do with a stone that's rolling, but it has everything to do with rock 'n' roll.

11. *Andrew Loog Oldham:* If it weren't for the Stones' manager and producer in the early years, the Stones might have stayed a relatively clean cut wannabe Beatles act.

12. *(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction:* Keef historically recorded this guitar figure before passing out, and went back to listen the next day and amongst the documents of his snoring, heard this amazing elementary riff.

13. *The comma in the title, Paint It, Black*

14. *Ruby Tuesday:* Try to forget that it's the name of an American chain restaurant and listen to the song like it's the first time you've ever heard it.

Reasons to love the Stones

#15

Mick's dancing.

Holy amazingness! That buzzing cello, that bassy tuba, the beautiful recorder, the deep low notes that Mick hits in the verses!

16. *Mick's crazy voices:* Mick pretends he's a sweaty redneck for the first two minutes of Let it Bleed, a fallen southern gentleman in Dead Flowers and in Emotional Rescue he's both a falsetto-singing lover-man as well as a musky knight in shining ahhhh-mour.

17. *Beatle-baiting:* Though the Fab four never really fought back, the Stones had the audacity to title their album Let it Bleed when they knew The Beatles were working on Let it Be.

18. *Speaking of Let it Bleed:* That album is so classic that it's like a Best-Of album that came out all at once. It begins with Gimme Shelter and closes with You Can't Always Get What You Want. Well, with the album with the cake on the cover, sometimes you actually can.

19. *The people who choose The Stones* in the Beatles vs. Stones debate are usually more fun to hang out with.

20. *Disco!:* What other group could not only decide to try a trendy new style of music 16 years into their career but perfect it? Granted everybody from Kiss to the Grateful Dead was trying disco in the mid '70s, but no other rock group were such chameleons to make it their own with enduring tunes like Miss You and Emotional Rescue. (see Mick's crazy voices, at No. 16.)

21. *Bomp bomp bomp bomp ba boom boom:* If you don't know what we're talking about, you need to revisit 4:54 of Sympathy for the Devil.

22. *Anita Pallenberg:* She came into the Stones zone as Jones' girlfriend, but when the group was travelling through Europe and Jones had to spend a little time in the hospital with pneumonia, she all of a sudden became Richards' girlfriend. As he writes so eloquently on page 215 of his autobiography, "For a week or so it's boinky boinky boinky, down in the Kasbah, and we're randy as rabbits but we're also wondering how we're going to deal with it."

23. *The Sticky Fingers zipper:* Sure, it ruins some of your other albums if you're a vinyl collector, but Andy Warhol's design sure is cool, and if you look closely, sexy.

24. *Who the f— is Mick Jagger?:* An iconic Keith photo. Google it.

25. *It's allllright now.*

WE ACTUALLY CAME UP WITH MORE REASONS TO LOVE THE STONES. YOU CAN READ THE COMPLETE LIST AND WATCH SOME VIDEOS OF THE BAND AT METRONEWS.CA/FEATURES

Scene in brief

More downward-facing dogs for Alec Baldwin?

Alec Baldwin is giving marriage another shot. The actor popped the question over the weekend to his 28-year-old yoga instructor girlfriend, Hilaria Thomas, whom he started dating last year. His publicist Matthew Hiltzik made the engagement announcement over Twitter. Baldwin, who once starred in a film called The Marrying Man, turns 54 on Tuesday and an engagement, says Hiltzik, is a "great way to celebrate!" Baldwin was previously married to Kim Basinger. They have a daughter together named Ireland. He published a book in 2008 called A Promise to Ourselves about his personal experience dealing with divorce and his battle with Basinger over custody of their daughter.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Luck creative duo defend safety of racing drama halted after three horse deaths; a 'bitter' end

A century-long Titanic obsession

Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, in a scene from the 3D version of The Titanic. PARAMOUNT PICTURES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unsinkable fascination. Filmmakers have been inspired by the 'ship of dreams' ever since she went to her watery grave

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

As the 100th anniversary of the ill-fated maiden voyage of the Titanic approaches, there are no shortages of cinematic ways to pay tribute to one of the most famous disasters of the 20th century. This weekend, James Cameron's Titanic sets sail again in theatres, this voyage in 3D. The story of Jack and Rose and their unsinkable love may be the best known of all the big boat movies, but it isn't the only one.

The first films about the sinking were made within a year of the event; 1912 saw three 10-minute films released to quench audience's thirst for Titanic news. The most famous of the movies featured an actual Titanic survivor.

Saved from the Titanic starred Dorothy Gibson, an actress who was also a first class passenger on the ship. Premiering on May 14, 1912, (just 29 days after the Titanic sank) the movie has Ms. Gibson recalling her experiences as a passenger, while wearing the same dress she had worn when the ship went down.

Cut to 1929. British International Pictures was forced to release their epic film on the Titanic under the name The Atlantic when White Star Line threatened legal action. Seems the Titanic's owner was actively trying to dissuade producers from cashing in on the Titanic disaster.

The next mention of the doomed ship on film came in 1933 in the best picture winner Cavalcade. In its most famous scene, newlyweds embark on their honeymoon cruise. Standing on the deck they discuss their plans as the ship pulls out of dock. Soon it's revealed they're standing in front of a life preserver embossed with the name Titanic.

Best of the bunch are Titanic, an all-star docu-drama headlined by Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Wagner, that debuted on April 14, 1953, exactly 41 years after the disaster and A Night to Remember, which is still regarded as the most accurate of all the Titanic films.

Propaganda film

Nazis also cashed in on the Titanic

Even Hitler had a hand in making a Titanic film. 1943's S.O.S Titanic was a propaganda film suggesting British incompetence was to blame for the disaster.

As water funnels into the ship, Captain Smith says, "See if you can find any German people on board. They'll know how to save the ship."

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Russell Brand gives up rights of home to Katy Perry

Russell Brand ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Russell Brand was apparently serious when he said he didn't want anything from Katy Perry in their divorce, as the British comedian has reportedly given Perry all the rights to the $6.5 million Hollywood Hills home they purchased while married, according to TMZ.

"It's all part of the property settlement agreed between Russell and Katy," a source says of their divorce proceedings.

Perry and Brand snatched up the eight-bedroom, nine-bathroom home six months before Brand filed for divorce.

They had not signed a prenuptial agreement.

Ashton Kutcher

Ashton Kutcher buys house before Bieber can

Ashton Kutcher has been enjoying his rented Hollywood Hills bachelor pad so much that he decided to buy it, according to TMZ.

So what spurred on the sudden decision?

Competition from Justin Bieber, who was reportedly eyeing the $10.8 million property.

"I had to buy the house because I thought he was going to buy it out from under me," Ashton jokes during an interview with Jimmy Kimmel.

"I was like, 'I don't want to lose this house.' He forced me to buy a house."

Lohan looking to move on from probation

Lindsay Lohan

With her formal probation behind her, Lindsay Lohan is looking to move on with her life, and to that end she's reportedly sworn off dating to focus on her acting career, according to TMZ.

"Lindsay wants to devote all her spare time to reading the script and getting Liz's persona down pat rather than focus on a new relationship," a source says of Lohan, who's set to star in an Elizabeth Taylor biopic.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Levi's johnson does it again

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Levi Johnston, a high-school drop out who is famous for knocking up someone kind of famous from an infamous political family, is using his super sperm to get back into the news cycle.

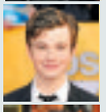
It was announced yesterday that the 21-year-old is expecting a baby with his Wasilla, Alaska school teacher girlfriend, Sunny Oglesby, 20.

TMZ.com reports that Oglesby is only around three-months pregnant and that Johnston is "so excited" about having a new baby out of wedlock.

This is most likely because Bristol Palin (along with her mom and dad) haven't been too accommodating about seeing his son Tripp.

I know Alaska is remote, but if Sarah Palin could see Russia from her house, how hard could it be for Johnston to spot a stack of Trojans at the Rite Aid?

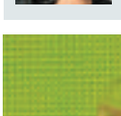
Twitter



@ActuallyNPH
I wanna give my 3 millionth (!) follower something cool. How would one quantify that? Is there some sort of log?

@chriscolfer
When I cook it's pretty dangerous...

@Oprah
Anyone tried meditation? Keeps the peace inside yourself.



@SarahKSilverman
Adele's taught us that u don't have to be skinny to be a music star- u just have to be the most beautiful woman in the world ever

Rihanna

Rihanna looks to play Whitney Houston in biopic

Rihanna has her sights set on the role of a lifetime: playing Whitney Houston in a biopic about the late singer.

"That would be something that I would have to give my entire life to do, because I would really want to pull it off," she tells the Press Association. "My first song that I remember falling in love with was a Whitney Houston song: I Will Always Love You. It was really inspiring, and it made me develop a passion for music, so really, she's partly responsible for me being here in this industry."

Of course, first there needs to be a movie to star in, and while producer Clive Davis was reportedly putting one together, his rep has shot down that rumor, saying, "There is no truth to this. Clive is not putting together a biopic."

Oprah Winfrey admits to mistakes, end is nigh

Oprah Winfrey admits she's made some mistakes in the early days of her new TV network, OWN.

"Had I known that it was this difficult, I might have done something else," Winfrey says in an interview with the CBS Early Show. "I didn't think it was going to be easy, but if I knew then what I know now, I might have made different choices. If I were writing a book about it, I could call the book 101 Mistakes."

Oprah Winfrey

3 LIFE

Travel in brief

Iceland chills on hotel rates

Hotel rates in Iceland have dropped 12 per cent since 2010, making the country's capital Reykjavik an "affordable European hot spot," says Travel and Leisure magazine. "Iceland's price points aren't at their rock-bottom 2008 levels, but they're still low," says the magazine. Icelandair resumed seasonal service from Canada on March 28, with four flights a week from Toronto to Reykjavik until November. Seasonal flights from Halifax resume June 7 with up to three flights weekly through October. The city is among several European destinations that Travel and Leisure deems "affordable" due to lower prices for hotels, meals or other expenses. The list includes Berlin, Krakow, Dublin, Budapest, Lisbon and economically hard-pressed Greece. European hotel chains that can save travellers money include Motel One in Germany and Austria, Grecotel Hotels & Resorts in Greece, Ibis across the continent, and Wyndham Hotels in France, Germany, Portugal and Spain, says the magazine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the Web

Montreal's iron icons: winding outdoor staircases win contest of local landmarks

The traveller of today

The most important aspect of a vacation for our readers is the ability to 'do nothing and relax.'

Poll. In Metro's worldwide survey, we asked you what's important when on vacation and here's what we found out

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

The environment

Who said you were a thoughtless, tech-crazed urbanite? Although your number one answer when asked about your travel attitudes was "vacations to me mean doing nothing and relaxing," a close number two was that you take actions to "reduce the environmental impact" of your travelling.

Here's an idea: Choose a holiday with a difference. Why not travel to Costa Rica where you can surf, eat cheap sushi and save sea turtles? If you're more of a passive environmentalist, reduce your carbon footprint by making small changes like taking a train rather than a plane or staying in an eco resort and not a big chain hotel. For more ideas head to ecotourism.org.

The web

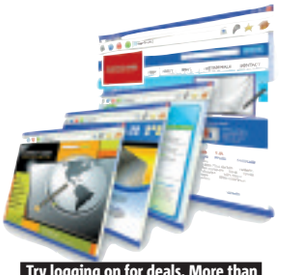
There's a reason why half the travel agents in your neighbourhood have closed. More than half of you decide on a destination after having looked it up on the Internet. From there, 81 per cent will go on to plan their itinerary online.

Here's an idea: By now, you probably know what travel site offers the best fares, but we're partial to bing.com — a site we generally ignore. Their Farecaster technology predicts if a flight's cost may go up or down in a coming month.

Special offers

Although 34 per cent of those polled planned their summer vacation up to three months in advance, for many it's a last-minute decision based on what special offer is available at the time. Travel cost is a major issue (98 per cent considered it 'very important') but package deals allow you to leave with a set budget. Aside from the odd gift or splurge, you shouldn't spend more than planned.

Here's an idea: Sign up for daily email alerts from websites that sell discount deals such as Groupon or Living Social or Save My Day (brought to you by Metro). Offers include anything from a cruise in the Mediterranean to a wine tasting in South Africa — often with spaces to fill.



Try logging on for deals. More than half of our readers decide on their destinations using the Internet.

Cannes offers sun and fun.

City and Sunshine

All it seems readers want (well, 63 per cent of them) is sunshine and access to a beach. This doesn't mean they want to shut themselves off from the world on a desert island — 30 per cent can't bear to be away from the city for too long.

Here's an idea: Put two and two together and travel to a sunny city on the coast. Istanbul, Cannes, Barcelona or Los Angeles — these are all cosmopolitan cities blessed with sunny weather and beautiful beaches.

Top destination. Our readers pick Thailand

Europeans, Russians and Hong Kong-ians all chose that part of the world's bachelor party favourite as their number one destination for a beach holiday, with Egypt and Australia also ranking high. North Americans wouldn't travel that far: For sun and fun, (and maybe a bachelor party?) they head to Mexico or Brazil.

METRO

Thailand's pristine beaches lure readers in Europe.

Top airlines

Flying high

When choosing an airline in a foreign country, it's hard to know which are reputable and which will seat you next to a sheep and donkey. So we asked the locals. European readers had a three-way tie, with British Airways, Lufthansa and KLM scoring the highest votes, and Air France and SAS a close second. Meanwhile, Russians and Hong Kong folks gave a resounding vote to No. 1 Aeroflot, with Cathay Pacific No. 2. And in North America, Air Canada and American Airlines topped the list. In third: Jet Blue.

METRO

Lufthansa scored some of the highest points with European readers.

Lynn Crawford makes Easter dinner easy for busy families

The Easter-long weekend is fast approaching and what does that mean?

Scavenger hunts, egg painting, bunny appearances, chocolate (too much chocolate) and of course, the big family dinner.

In keeping with the spirit of a holiday steeped in fun traditions, Inniskillin Wines and Chef Lynn Crawford created a long-weekend menu that packs just as much playfulness.

"This menu was important to me because Easter dinner has been a long-standing tradition in the Crawford family, and so has Easter brunch. I wanted to create something that was reminiscent of home. After all, that's what this weekend is all about — cooking, eating, and enjoying great company," says Crawford.

This ham pairs perfect with Riesling or Pinot Noir.

1. Preheat the oven to 300 F.

2. Put the ham in a large roasting pan, skin side up. Using a sharp knife, score the ham with cuts across the skin, about 2-inches apart and 1/2-inch deep. Cut diagonally down the slashes to form a diamond pattern.

3. Season the ham generously with salt and pepper. Mix the herbs, mustard and oil to make a paste. Rub the herb mixture over the ham, being sure to get the flavour into all the slits. Bake the ham for 2 hours.

4. For the glaze, place a saucepan over medium heat. Add the chunks of butter, apples, shallots, garlic apple juice, brown sugar, water, and spices. Slowly cook the liquid down to a chunky, syrupy glaze, about 40 to 50 minutes.

5. Pour the apple mustard glaze over the ham and continue to cook for about 1 1/2 hours, basting with the juices every 30 minutes. Set the ham on a cutting board to rest before carving.

Ingredients

- 1 (8 to 10-pound) smoked ham, bone-in, skin on
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp thyme leaves, chopped
- 2 tbsp sage leaves, chopped
- 2 tbsp parsley, chopped
- 3 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, cut in chunks
- 3 Gala apples, cored and thinly sliced
- 3-4 shallots, peeled, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 1/2 cups apple cider
- 1/2 cup Inniskillin Riesling
- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 tsp whole cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks

PEGGED AS CANADA'S TOP CHEF, LYNN CRAWFORD IS KNOWN FOR HER HIT FOOD NETWORK SHOW PITCHIN' IN, NOW IN ITS FOURTH SEASON/ INNISKILLIN WINES

Honey Mustard Ham with Apples & Inniskillin Riesling

This recipe serves eight to 10 people. PROVIDED

Drink of the week

Skyy Easter Bonnet

The SKYY Easter Bonnet is a refreshing blend of smooth SKYY Vodka, Campari, tropical guava puree, freshly squeezed lime juice and sweetened with a hint of simple syrup.

Top it with a flower and it's as pretty as your favourite Easter bonnet!

- 1 1/2 parts SKYY Vodka
- 1/2 part Campari
- 1 part Guava puree (nectar or juice can also be substituted)
- 1/2 part freshly squeezed lime juice
- 1/2 part simple syrup

Pour ingredients in a shaker filled with ice. Shake and serve with a cocktail glass. SKYY SPIRITS

Pair your meal with Macaroni and Cheddar Casserole

This recipe serves four to six. PROVIDED

1. Heat your oven to 350° F. Lightly butter a two-quart casserole dish.

2. Melt 2 tablespoons of butter and toss with the bread crumbs, cheese and parsley.

3. To make the sauce, make a cut into the onion, about 1 inch deep, and slide the bay leaf into the slit. Stick the cloves into the onion. Put the milk and onions into a saucepot over medium heat.

4. Meanwhile in a separate pan, over low heat, melt the butter and then add the flour. Stir together and cook the roux without browning for about 3 minutes. Remove from heat.

5. When the milk is hot, pour some into the roux, stirring until the milk is thoroughly blended in. Return this to the remaining milk, and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring frequently.

6. Add the mustard and season with salt and pepper. Remove the onion, bay leafs and cloves. Add 2 cups of cheese and continue cooking, over low heat, stirring, until cheese is melted.

7. Cook the macaroni in a large pot of salted boiling water. Drain well and add to the sauce. Add the parsley and mix together well. Transfer to the prepared baking dish and top with seasoned bread crumbs.

8. Sprinkle over the casserole and bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until browned and bubbly.

LYNN CRAWFORD/ INNISKILLIN WINES

Ingredients

For the topping

- 2 tbsp butter
- 1 cup Panko bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup Parmesan
- 2 tbsp parsley, chopped

- 5 cups elbow macaroni
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 small onion, peeled and cut in half
- 2 bay leafs
- 4 cloves
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter
- 3 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 cups milk
- 2 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 2 1/2 cups Cheddar cheese, grated
- 2 cup smoked ham, cooked and diced
- 2 tbsp parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper

Niagara Gold Cheese Potato Gratin. Spotlight on local ingredients

1. Heat oven to 400 F. Butter 8-inch square baking dish with 1 tbsp of butter.

2. Combine garlic, potatoes, remaining butter, thyme and bay leaf in large saucepan over medium-high heat and bring to boil.

3. Season with salt, pepper and nutmeg and cook, stirring occasionally, until potatoes are just tender and mix has thickened, about 10 minutes.

4. Transfer mix to baking dish and sprinkle cheese over gratin and bake until golden brown and bubble about 30-40 minutes. LYNN CRAWFORD/ INNISKILLIN WINES

Ingredients

- 5 tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 large red bliss potatoes, about 2.5 pounds, peeled and cut into 1/8" rounds
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 sprig thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- Pinch nutmeg
- 1 cup Niagara gold cheese, grated
- Salt and pepper

Twitter

@TalentEgg: Volunteer work, extracurricular, student groups and in-class work can all count as experience!

@stephaniefusco:
Advice: volunteer a lot, network and never turn down an interview. #HireGenY

@Ade4Target:
Students have to demonstrate leadership through projects & volunteer work. #HireGenY

@darcie_YYZ:
Volunteer w/ nonprofits (shows initiative) or w/ Student Union (shows a drive to make a difference) #Leadership #HireGenY

@dizzypuma:
Apply for extracurriculars first so that you have transferable skills (ex: sports, clubs, volunteering, etc.) #HireGenY

The million dollar idea. Student group making a difference, differently

Humanitarian organizations are well represented on university campuses, but Students Offering Support (SOS) says it has a different approach to "making a difference" — a model that has now proven to be a million-dollar idea.

"[SOS] is a unique use of entrepreneurial principles in the charitable giving sector," says Greg Overholt, the organization's founder and executive director.

The charity provides students with exam preparation sessions and resources for a small fee and then uses the proceeds to fund access to education projects in Latin America, which SOS volunteers put in place. The structure of SOS "closes the loop," says Overholt, "paying it forward in a way that supports education not just locally but globally."

And paying it forward has paid off for this student-based organization. Seven years after its inception, SOS is predicted to raise its millionth dollar this year.

ISHANI NATH IS A MASTER OF JOURNALISM STUDENT AT RYERSON UNIVERSITY.

Student Voice

Give a little, get a little

Heather Mundle
Recent graduate from Carleton University's mass communications program and Algonquin College's public relations program.
TalentEgg.ca

Heather Mundle PROVIDED

The summer search for jobs is something all of us students are facing right now. It's April and most of us are getting squirmy for when the next big break is going to come.

As a public relations student and graduate, I have learned that opportunities are not just thrown at you; you need to search them out for yourself and be willing to jump quickly into a new venture.

After attending Carleton University for a Bachelor of Arts in mass communications, I went with leaps and bounds to Algonquin College for public relations. The combination of university taught me how to think while the practical, hands-on experience of the college setting is a push in the right direction toward a career.

At Algonquin, I also learned the value of volunteering and sharing your experience with others. I made volunteering my only job where I have tried out public relations, marketing work, event planning and social media work. It is so great to lend a helping hand, gain some valuable experience and meet some wonderful friends and mentors along the way.

I think that in the university setting there needs to be more of a focus on volunteering in the community. It is one of the best ways to learn more about your field of study in a real world setting instead of asking yourself, "Now what am I going to do with this degree?"

Volunteering allows you to test out an area of interest before you are ready to make the big leap from student to career.

Never underestimate the power that the word 'volunteer' can have on your resumé. ISTOCK

A guide to giving back

So you want to be a volunteer. Follow these steps to find a cause befitting to your career aspirations

ELIZABETH BAISLEY
TalentEgg.ca

• Research the causes or issues that are important to you: Find or create an organization that focuses on issues you're passionate about.

• Consider the skills you have to offer: Share skills that you use all day at work or that you have gained from a hobby or other experiences. Organizations requiring volunteers usually offer some training, but excessive training is costly and defeats the purpose of hiring volunteers.

• Seek opportunities where you can learn something new: This can be exciting, rewarding, and good for career development.

• Combine your goals: Look for volunteer opportunities that will also help you achieve your other goals for your life, whether personal or professional.

• Don't over-commit your schedule: Be up front about how many hours you can commit to the organization. You don't want to frustrate the organization or overwhelm yourself.

Questions

What to ask an organization you are interested in volunteering for:

- Will you have to sign a liability release form so that the organization is not liable for any accidents you might have? This is especially important if you will be driving.
- How many hours will you be expected to commit each week?
- How long will your training be?
- Is there a time commitment in terms of months?
- Will you need a police check?

Applications and interviews are good things

You might be interviewed and expected to fill out an application, just like for a job. This is done to match you to tasks based on your skills and to ensure that you're committed.

It's probably a good thing that an organization does this, so don't let it scare you away. You are much more likely to find a meaningful volunteer position at an organization that puts time and planning into hiring their volunteers.

ELIZABETH BAISLEY STUDIES HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMAN DIVERSITY AT WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY'S BRANTFORD CAMPUS.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

Need a few more reasons to lend a hand?

I have a secret desire to be a music technician. Yeah, a sound engineer. The person who slides the faders up and down in the recording studio.

So now that I've graduated I figured I'd have nothing to lose if I signed up for an information session at my nearby college radio station. Exploring your pipe dream is one of many reasons to rethink volunteering.

Get some practice

If you can't get paid to do what you want, do it for free until you can find a paying job in your field. Most people who get stuck in job search mode get really good at writing cover letters and interviewing, but once you're hired, you'll need to be ready with the skills your employer actually hired you for.

Learn a new skill

Another "three years experience wanted" and you'll be just about ready to jump off the nearest cliff, right? If you don't have the requisite experience for a job you want, volunteering is a great way to get your hands dirty and hone your skills.

Meet new people

Take care

It boils down to helping yourself — in more than one way — by helping someone else.

Caroline Yeung

Need I say more? When you're on the hunt for new prospects, the best thing you can do is expose yourself to new people in new situations. Job referrals often come from unexpected sources, so take the opportunity to chat up your superiors and fellow volunteers.

You never know when or where you'll meet that new business contact, friend or partner.

Take a break

Frustrated by the job search? Volunteering for a few hours each week gives you the chance to get away from the stress of job hunting. It boils down to helping yourself — in more than one way — by helping someone else.

CAROLINE YEUNG IS A RECENT MEDIEVAL ENGLISH LITERATURE AND HISTORY GRADUATE FROM MCGILL UNIVERSITY IN MONTREAL.

Golf

Injury forces Johnson out of Masters

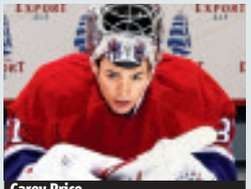
Dustin Johnson withdrew from this week's Masters on Tuesday because of a lingering back injury that he aggravated while lifting a jet ski last week, his agent said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Habs to examine Price's headaches

Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price will be examined by a team doctor Wednesday to determine whether the headaches he is suffering are a sign of something more serious.

The Canadiens have not confirmed a report that Price has a concussion. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Carey Price
RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

NFL

Saints' appeal to be heard on Thursday

Saints head coach Sean Payton, GM Mickey Loomis and assistant head coach Joe Vitt are set to have their appeals heard Thursday on punishments for their roles in New Orleans' bounty system. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

"Maybe they (NHL) need Hollywood in the playoffs."

Edmonton coach Tom Renney on why his Oilers didn't get calls in their favour in a 2-0 loss to Los Angeles on Monday. The NHL fined Renney $10,000 US on Tuesday for the comments.

Jays top Tigers in spring finale

MLB. But Detroit's new slugger Fielder steals show with aggressive base-running

Prince Fielder took a big lead off first base and Toronto pitcher Henderson Alvarez never gave him a glance. So the hefty slugger took off and slid in with his first spring training swipe since 2008.

"I think any time I steal anything, everybody's off-guard. That's the point," Fielder said following the Blue Jays' 13-8 win Tuesday over the Detroit Tigers.

In a game that had five home runs among its 28 hits, Fielder's theft was a highlight.

Fielder followed Miguel Cabrera's single up the middle in the third inning with a forceout. After Delmon Young popped up, Fielder ran on Alvarez's first pitch to Alex Avila and beat J.P. Arencibia's throw and shortstop Yunel Escobar's tag.

Deadpanned Tigers manager Jim Leyland: "I wouldn't make a big deal out of it."

"I don't think you'll see it very much," he said. "You can tell Rickey Henderson not to worry about it."

Fielder has 16 stolen bases in seven major league seasons, putting him 1,390 behind Hall of Famer Henderson's record.

Fielder's next gamble on the bases also brought a roar from the crowd in Dunedin, Fla., but it wasn't nearly as successful.

With two outs and Fielder still at second, Jhonny Peralta lined a single to left field. The 275-pound Fielder thundered around third and headed home. Left fielder Eric Thames threw Fielder out by two steps to end the inning.

"I thought I had it," Fielder said.

Tigers starter Max Scherzer had a rough day, charged with nine runs on 11 hits and three walks in 4 1-3 innings. He was chased during the Blue Jays' seven-run fifth inning.

Thames and two minor leaguers hit home runs for the Blue Jays. Miguel Cabrera connected off Alvarez and Danny Worth hit one off Kyle Drabek, who gave up single runs in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings and two in the ninth.

Toronto's regular season gets underway Thursday in Cleveland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays catcher J.P. Arencibia taps Detroit's Prince Fielder after the Tigers first baseman tried to score on a Jhonny Peralta single in the third inning on Tuesday. KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Starting rotation

Cecil sent to double-A

The Blue Jays demoted starting pitcher Brett Cecil to Double-A New Hampshire on the final day of spring training, and will begin the season with Kyle Drabek and Joel Carreno in the starting rotation.

Once projected to be the Jays' third starter, Cecil's final two starts of spring were dreadful. He gave up 15 hits, 11 runs and six walks in a combined 6 2/3 innings.

"Brett needs a few more starts to gain the consistent command required to compete against lineups he's going to face at the major-league level," manager John Farrell said Tuesday.

To start the season, the Jays' five-man rotation will be Ricky Romero, Brandon Morrow, Carreno, Henderson Alvarez and Drabek. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Curling. Canada remains unbeaten as competition for world title heats up

Canada's Glenn Howard has won in blowout fashion and had a few close calls at the world men's curling championship.

He has come through every time and remains a favourite to play for his fourth world title this weekend in Basel, Switzerland.

Howard improved his record to 7-0 Tuesday, winning a 7-6 nail-biter over Switzerland before posting an 8-5 win over Denmark. Both opponents are playoff long shots but still gave Howard a stiff challenge ahead of upcoming games against powerhouses Sweden and Scotland.

Howard said the quality of opposition is so high at the competition that every game is a test.

"When other teams play well, you can only do so much," he said. "Everybody keeps thinking you're supposed to blow people out. You can't — if the other team makes a lot of shots, that's the way it works.

"The bottom line is you just try to make one more than the next guy and get those wins." THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

74%

Glenn Howard shot just 74 per cent against the Swiss but teammates Wayne Middaugh, Brent Laing and Craig Savill each shot over 95 per cent.

Champions League

Messi's pair leads Barcelona to semis

Lionel Messi swept holder Barcelona into the Champions League semifinals for the fifth successive year on Tuesday while becoming the competition's most prolific scorer in a single season.

The Argentina forward scored a pair of first-half penalty kicks and Andres Iniesta added another goal after the break to give Barcelona a 3-1 victory over AC Milan following a 0-0 draw in Italy.

Messi's 14th Champions League goal this season surpassed Ruud van Nistelrooy's tally in the 2002-03 campaign.

Bayern Munich joined fellow four-time champion Barcelona in the semifinals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Raptors get first winning streak in months

Andrea Bargnani had a game-high 30 points and hit the pivotal jumper with 26.9 seconds remaining as Toronto defeated the Charlotte Bobcats 92-87 Tuesday night, giving the Raptors their first winning streak in more than two months.

With Toronto ahead 88-87 following a long D.J. Augustin three-pointer, Bargnani drove and hit a turnaround hook shot over Byron Mullens for his eighth and ninth points of the quarter. Mullens then air balled a three-point attempt and Bargnani finished things off with free throws as the Raptors won two in a row for the first time since Jan. 25.

It's also the club's first two-game winning streak at the Air Canada Centre since Dec. 1-3, 2010, and it came at the expense of a scrappy Bobcats team that had won six straight in the head-to-head series.

Jose Calderon gestures after the Raptors defeated the Charlotte Bobcats Tuesday in Toronto.
FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

DeMar DeRozan added 20 points as Toronto went 3-2 on its five-game homestand. Linas Kleiza had 12 of his 18 points in the second quarter while Jose Calderon finished with 11 assists. THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

Quoted

"In hindsight, I realize what I said was inappropriate and wrong, and I want to apologize to the Penguins organization and their fans."

NBC and CBC hockey analyst Mike Milbury who found himself under fire Tuesday, a day after a rant against Pittsburgh Penguins superstar Sidney Crosby. Milbury ripped Crosby on a Philadelphia radio station Monday, calling out the Pens captain for his role in a game-ending line brawl Sunday between the Penguins and Flyers. He labelled Crosby "a punk" and "little goody two shoes" and also referred to "his 35th concussion."

"I don't know what he's looking for, if he's looking for attention. I don't know what it is. I really don't know where that came from. He's pretty good at twisting things around, that's for sure."

Sidney Crosby on Millbury before Pittsburgh's game against Boston on Tuesday.

On the web

Long overlooked and underfunded, the renamed Miami Marlins had top billing Tuesday as they played their first game at brand new Marlins Park against the defending World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals to open the 2012 MLB regular season. Scan the code for the story.

Milbury apologizes for ripping Crosby

NHL. TV analyst should be fired, says Penguins star's agent

One day after a rant against Penguins superstar Sidney Crosby, hockey analyst Mike Milbury found himself under fire.

Crosby's agent rejected an apology from the former NHL coach and general manager, saying Milbury's comments on Crosby's concussions demanded action.

"Milbury went too far this time attacking the very sensitive issue of the concussion," Pat Brisson said Tuesday. "A simple apology isn't accepted in this case.

"The real way to treat this disease is by either suspending or firing Milbury. Plain and simple."

Milbury ripped Crosby on a Philadelphia radio station Monday, calling out the Pens captain for his role in a game-ending line brawl Sunday between the Penguins and Flyers.

He labelled Crosby "a punk" and "little goody two shoes" and also referred to "his 35th concussion."

A day later, he apologized via a one-paragraph statement.

"I reached out to (Pittsburgh president) David Morehouse and the Penguins about the comments I made yesterday on Philadelphia radio," Milbury said.

"In hindsight, I realize what I said was inappropriate and wrong, and I want to apologize to the Penguins organization and their fans."

Crosby said he's not sure what provoked Milbury's tirade. The 24-year-old former MVP has been limited to 19 games over the last 15 months due to concussions.

Milbury, who is an analyst on NBC and also appears on CBC, took issue with Crosby's behaviour during the chaotic scene near the end of Sunday's game.

The fighting Sunday was touched off in part by Flyers forward Brayden Schenn's cross-checking Crosby in the back.

"So you know, Crosby gets cross-checked, big whoop," Milbury told the radio station. "He said after he came back from his 35th concussion, 'I'm not going to do this anymore, I'm not going to get into this scrums, I'm going to stay away from that stuff.' He couldn't help himself because there's a little punk in Crosby.

"He's not the perfect gentleman. He's not the sweet kid you see in interviews with his hat pulled down over his eyes. I'd say screw him, hit him."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby is congratulated by teammates after scoring a goal in Boston on Tuesday evening. Crosby had two goals and an assist in the Penguins' 5-3 win over the Bruins. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"I really don't know where that came from. He's pretty good at twisting things around, that's for sure."

Sidney Crosby on Mike Milbury

NFL puts on fashion show

The new Seattle Seahawks uniform, foreground, Pittsburgh Steelers, rear right, and Cincinnati Bengals, rear left, are displayed on mannequins during a presentation in New York, Tuesday. Nike is a new NFL partner, taking over uniform and gear design from Reebok.

SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Rangers lock up No.1 seed in East with win in Philly

Ryan Callahan and Artem Anisimov scored as part of a four-goal first period, and the New York Rangers clinched the top seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs for the first time since 1994 with a 5-3 win over the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday night.

The Rangers are tops in the East for the first time since Mark Messier led them to their last Stanley Cup championship 18 years ago. The Rangers, who lead the overall NHL standings with 109 points, are assured of home-ice advantage until at least the Stanley Cup finals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky forward Anthony Davis celebrates as he cuts the net after the NCAA college basketball tournament championship game Monday in New Orleans. DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kentucky's Big Blue season: Wildcats' title a slam dunk

The running joke all season was that Kentucky was good enough to beat some NBA teams. Say, maybe the Toronto Raptors.

Farfetched? Probably. But with that stable of pros-in-waiting, one thing seemed certain: The Wildcats were the team to beat in college basketball.

Capping a season that had a feeling of inevitability, Kentucky finished with a flourish, beating Kansas 67-59 in the NCAA championship game Monday night.

OK, so maybe it was the last time we'll see many of those future millionaires in blue and white. At least they'll go out as heroes after bringing home an eighth national championship to Big Blue and giving John Calipari the one missing piece to his resume.

"We were the best team," Calipari said. "I wanted this to be one for the ages."

Calipari has had a knack for luring the nation's best recruits to Lexington, never worrying about whether they'd stick around.

This year's bouncy-legged bunch was impressive even by his standards.

Led by everybody's player of the year Anthony Davis, these fast-tracked Wildcats raced past nearly everyone who got in their way.

Davis, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, Doron Lamb, Darius Miller, Terrence Jones, Marquis Teague — Coach Cal had a team of ringers and he, along with everyone else, knew it.

Davis may be gone. So could several other players in just a couple of weeks. With five potential first-round picks, the NBA may be too enticing for this team to stay together.

That's OK with Calipari. He's hung his hat on chasing after the best players, regardless of whether they'll stick around or go to the NBA. Teach them as much as he can, win with them as much as he can, let them go when they're ready is Calipari's philosophy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man shot after game

- Police say doctors amputated the foot of a man who was shot in the leg during raucous celebrations in Lexington of Kentucky's NCAA basketball championship.
- He was shot around 2 a.m. as Kentucky fans were celebrating in the streets. No arrests have been made in the shooting.

Dual exhausts on a family car. Beautiful. JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

A muscle sedan in disguise

Review.
2012 Nissan Maxima

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

There's an interesting sticker on the rear side window of the Nissan Maxima that says "Four Door Sports Car." Interesting, if nothing else — as 'real' sports cars usually have two doors, weigh less than 3,600 pounds and can't accommodate a family of four or five.

At first, things look more stately and restrained than sporty.

Maxima has no spoiler. There's no hood scoop. It's not low to the ground, and it doesn't even have a loud exhaust. It's also front-wheel drive — where most of the world's highest-performing sports cars aren't.

And the tester was painted brown. I've never seen a brown sports car before and you probably haven't either.

There's some sleeper sportiness though — you've just got to look a little. High-performance xenon lighting, brake ducts, dual exhausts and big wheels were on board. Sporty touches inside include push-button engine start, paddle shifters and a 260 km/h speedometer.

Thanks to an award-winning V6 powerplant, that speedometer gets moving in a jiffy when drivers request it. Under Maxima's hood is a 3.5-litre V6 from Nissan's highly acclaimed VQ engine lineup. It puts 290 horsepower on tap — and is noted for its refinement, pleasing sound, linear, high-revving power curve and overall pleasantness.

Plenty of power. Lots in fact — heck, Maxima will even torque-steer from highway speeds during full-throttle passing. The engine is smooth, eager and lovely sounding in the process.

Nissan's xTronic Continually Variable Transmission or CVT with shift paddles is the only transmission available.

Specs

- **Engine.** 3.5-L DOHC V6, 290 horsepower.
- **Drivetrain.** Front-wheel drive.
- **Observed Average Mileage.** 11 L / 100 km.
- **Price as Tested.** $40,680.

With no actual 'stepped' gears to shift, it transmits power on a smooth and uninterrupted wave. Think snowmobile — if you've ever driven one. This type of transmission isn't a favourite among enthusiasts, but Nissan's done a great job of making it feel like a normal automatic, using the CVT technology to enhance responsiveness, and employing a lightning-fast 'simulated' manual shift mode that's fun to use.

Planted, stable and confident handling and a light, quick steering help round out the entertainment factor. And despite its size and weight, Maxima feels locked down onto the road in fast bends — meaning the whole chassis invites exploration of its limits once you've dropped off the kids. Powerful brakes, too.

A front view of the Maxima. JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

As big family sedans go, this one's rewarding to drive either gently or hard.

Complaints? Wind and road noise were more intrusive at speed than expected. And come on, Nissan: some of us can still drive a manual transmission.

End of the day, Maxima's big draw will be a blend of family-friendly operation and a generous helping of performance served up by its powertrain and handling. Pricing from about $38,000.

5 DRIVE

Automotive marvel

Flying car gets closer to reality

Flying cars aren't just science fiction anymore. Woburn, Mass.-based Terrafugia Inc. said Monday that its prototype flying car has completed its first flight, bringing the company closer to its goal of selling the flying car within the next year. The vehicle — dubbed the Transition — has two seats, four wheels and wings that fold up so it can be driven like a car. Last month, it flew at 1,400 feet for eight minutes. Commercial jets fly at 35,000 feet. Around 100 people have already put down a $10,000 deposit to get a Transition when they go on sale, and those numbers will likely rise after Terrafugia introduces the Transition to the public this week at the New York Auto Show. But don't expect it to show up in too many driveways. It's expected to cost $279,000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

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When metal gets compressed, priorities change very quickly

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Thankfully, nobody was seriously injured. CONTRIBUTED

I'm not the first person to be driving along in perfect safety and serenity to be suddenly broadsided by another vehicle, and vaulted into that country called accident-land.

So many of you know what that feels like.

One moment you're driving along listening to Anne Murray or Black Sabbath, and the next there's a huge BANG. Instead of ending up where you planned, your day suddenly shifts to one populated by police, ambulance attendants, mangled machinery, tow trucks, witnesses and rental cars. A lot of cell phoning. A lot of standing around by the side of the road.

And a lot of going over the accident in your head.

Since it happened, a few months ago, I must have replayed that tape hundreds of times. I can't remember what socks I put on this morning, but every detail of those few moments before and after impact are available to me anytime I want in full HD. And I'm always surprised at how much information I was able to take in during those brief moments, like the metal got compressed, and so did time.

The tape goes something like this… A vehicle suddenly appears in my left periphery… What the?… That car shouldn't be there… What's going on?… Slam on the brakes… BANG… Diane screaming… The Mazda 626 deflected into the ditch… Can't believe we're not in pain…

We were shaken, but not internally stirred.

Moments earlier we were going dead straight on a lightly populated two-lane in the country, mid-morning in bright sunlight, en route to Ontario's Blue Mountain ski resort, to meet up with our friends Dave and Olga.

The car that hit us, had just turned left into our path, from a stop sign, intending to travel the same direction as us. That car's right front fender contacted our left front fender.

After making sure we weren't leaking, I ran out to yell at the other driver. I had to wait a bit. His car was veering erratically into a field, about 100 metres away from us. As soon as his car stopped, he scrambled out and ran up to us in the snow to see if we were all right. I was yelling at him most of the way.

A young guy. Said he didn't see us.

In retrospect, I should have asked if he was all right before yelling at him. That's one of the things I would do differently if I had to do it over again, which I won't. It's booked in that line of time nobody gets to change.

Quote

"When push comes to shove, as it does in vehicle accidents, you are once again made aware of how far down the priority list are vehicles from the thing at the very top of the priority list — people."

A lot of friendly folk stopped to help. Everybody on the scene, including police and ambulance attendants, couldn't have been more helpful or concerned. When push comes to shove, as it does in vehicle accidents, you are once again made aware of how far down the priority list are vehicles from the thing at the very top of the priority list — people.

The policeman on the scene said we were lucky. If we struck a bit earlier, we would have taken the blow by the driver's door. If we struck a bit later, we would have run into the back of him. There was a lot of meaty metal where we got together, and each car could deflect a lot of the energy by heading off in various, non-conflicting directions.

Our car was totalled. For someone who just lost a really decent car that I liked a lot, and would be really hard to replace at its going rate, I felt pretty good. Everyone, including me, was walking around, alive. Being alive is good.

Driving Force. Timing belt? Timing chain? You need to know!

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Two birds, one stone

- During timing belt replacement, you may be asked about replacing the water pump, too. You're not being ripped off. Water pumps wear out also, and since it has to be removed to reach the belt and you're already paying for that labour, it's relatively cheaper to get it all done at once.

Your car's engine contains hundreds of moving parts, all of which must be synchronized to run properly. That includes the valves, which use either a timing chain or timing belt — and it's important to know which one your engine uses.

While a chain is virtually maintenance-free, a timing belt should be changed at a predetermined mileage as a preventative measure.

Engines contain pistons that move up and down, turning a crankshaft to produce a spinning motion that eventually turns the wheels. The pistons are powered by gasoline.

The fuel comes in and the exhaust escapes through valves, which open and close via contact with a camshaft. The timing chain/belt runs between the crankshaft and camshaft, turning the camshaft at exactly the right speed. It's hidden behind a cover; the rubber belt you see when you open the hood is not the timing belt.

Whether it's a belt or chain depends on the model and the manufacturer.

"We don't use timing belts anymore," says Rob Murdoch, national manager of technical services for Mazda Canada.

"There's a shift (in the industry) from belts to chains because they tend to last longer."

Timing belts, which are made from rubber and fibre, became popular because they are quieter and weigh less than metal chains — important as automakers shave grams off components for improved fuel economy. But they do eventually wear out and can break. If this happens, the engine won't run.

On some higher-compression engines, the valves and pistons have such tight tolerances that a broken belt could result in the parts crashing together, creating serious engine damage.

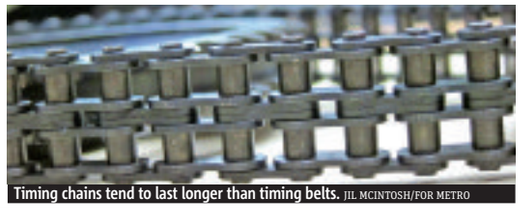
These so-called "interference" engines are also becoming more common as automakers work to improve efficiency, but they're now more likely to use a chain.

"That's another reason why manufacturers are shifting from belts to chains," Murdoch says. "Consumers have concerns about the cost of maintenance."

Depending on the vehicle, the recommended time to change a timing belt is anywhere from about 90,000 to 150,000 km — before it breaks.

It can be a pricey repair on many models, since it's hard to access and requires a lot of time.

If you're not sure what type your car has, ask the dealership, or look in the maintenance section of the owner's manual to see if it's mentioned.



Timing chains tend to last longer than timing belts. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

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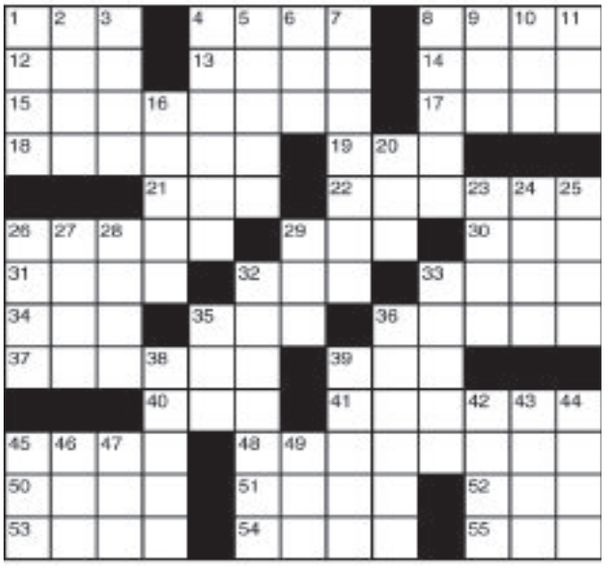
Crossword

Across

1 Matlock's field
4 Goody-goody
8 Put together
12 Eggs
13 Top-rated
14 Pressing need
15 Football-game start
17 Opening day?
18 Tell
19 Father's Day gift
21 Nursery item
22 This way
26 Broadway backer
29 Pub order
30 Right-turn command
31 Upper House member
32 White House monogram
33 Verve
34 History chapter
35 Black-and-white seabird
36 Put forth
37 Decorate with raised work
39 Rock-concert need
40 Likely
41 Nap
45 Tarzan's clique
48 Kisser enhancement
50 Sandwich shop
51 Always
52 Cheerleader's cry
53 Thousand —, Calif.
54 Unit of force
55 Make an effort

Down

1 Sites
2 Shakespeare's river
3 Child of the streets
4 Beat
5 Spacious
6 Officeholders
7 "Whole exceeds sum of parts" theory
8 Countertop appliance
9 Branch
10 — good deed
11 Type measures
16 Famous
20 Bar supply
23 Eye amorously
24 Burn somewhat
25 Faxed
26 Sheltered
27 "Cheers" habitué
28 Snatch
29 Mail invitations
32 Sped
33 Vote off the island
35 Cleo's slayer
36 Political mover?
38 Refuge
39 Skiers' mecca
42 Do mailroom work
43 Autocrat
44 Wan
45 Big bother
46 Split — soup
47 Wapiti
49 Wall climber



Sudoku

		8		2	6			
		1	8			6		
			4				3	9
		5	2			7		1
	3						6	
2		9			4	5		
4	7				9			
		3			2	1		
			5	6		3		

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	4	9	6	7	8	3	1
9	8	3	5	1	4	6	7	2
7	6	1	8	3	2	4	5	9
4	1	5	3	7	6	9	2	8
8	7	6	4	2	9	3	1	5
3	9	2	1	8	5	7	6	4
5	2	7	6	4	8	1	9	3
6	3	8	2	9	1	5	4	7
1	4	9	7	5	3	2	8	6

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

FT GSN TYFRPTNKKG JKDYA GSNI DYIM, F MNLLSMD GSN JSNKC JYKK RPYR XSSC YNIYK PGXFDAD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER SOME BLACK INK WAS FOUND TO BE GUILTY OF A CRIME, THEY WOUND UP PUTTING IT IN THE PEN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals U

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. You are never afraid to take risks but the approaching full moon warns they must now be calculated risks, or you might just come off second best.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Why are you contemplating an extreme solution for a problem that is really quite simple?

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. With your ruler Mercury moving in your favour again you should be focusing on realities. They can be as enjoyable as fantasies.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. This is not a good day to believe you can do six impossible things before breakfast. You need to know your limits.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. In the greater scheme of things, there is no such thing as "good" or "bad" events. It all depends on how you look at them.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Use your eyes and ears today, and make sure you know what is actually going on in your world, rather than what other people tell you is going on.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. What you say today may not be greeted with universal acclaim but that does not matter.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Raise your sights and make sure you can see the bigger picture. You'll recognize the significance soon.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Take your mind off your troubles today by getting involved in a new creative activity.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Take time out for your own needs today and don't feel guilty if friends and family complain that you are being unsociable.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Someone will say something upsetting but you must not respond in kind. Just smile sweetly.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Mercury, planet of the mind, turns direct in your sign today and you will notice that your problems no longer seem such a big deal.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"So this is how the Salmon do it!"
CRAIG

MICHAEL GOULDING, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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